

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An adapter for connecting a hose to a hose receptacle of an object in a
2 locking relationship, the adapter comprising:

3 a first end adapted to be fixedly attached to one of the hose receptacle or the hose;

4 and

5 a second end having a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a
6 second locking element to establish a locking relationship

7 2. An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein the first end is adapted to be
8 fixedly attached to the hose receptacle.

9 3. An adapter as defined in claim 2, wherein the second locking element is
10 attached to the hose, such that the hose is selectively connectable to the second end of the
11 adapter in a locking relationship.

12 4. An adapter as defined in claim 2, wherein the first end of the adapter
13 includes a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom, the flaps adapted to engage
14 the hose receptacle to fixedly attach the first end to the hose receptacle.

15 5. An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein the first end is adapted to be
16 fixedly attached to the hose.

1 6. An adapter as defined in claim 5, wherein the second locking element is
2 attached to the hose receptacle, such that the second end of the adapter is selectively
3 connectable to the hose receptacle in a locking relationship.

4 7. An adapter as defined in claim 5, wherein the first end of the adapter
5 includes a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom, the flaps adapted to engage
6 the hose to fixedly attach the first end to the hose.

7 8. An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein the first locking element
8 includes a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

9 9. An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein the first locking element
10 includes a generally U-shaped casing.

11 10. An adapter as defined in claim 9, wherein the first locking element
12 includes a post traversing the U-shaped casing for interlocking with the second locking
13 element.

14 11. A hose system for a vacuum appliance having a hose receptacle, the hose
15 system comprising:

16 a hose having a connection end;
17 a first locking element connected to the connection end of the hose; and
18 an adapter having first and second ends, the first end adapted to be fixedly
19 attached to the hose receptacle, the second end having a second locking
20 element adapted to selectively engage the first locking element.

1 12. A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the first end of the adapter
2 includes a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom, the flaps adapted to engage
3 the hose receptacle to fixedly attach the first end to the receptacle.

4 13. A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the second locking element
5 includes a post for interlocking with the first locking element.

6 14. A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the second locking element
7 includes a generally U-shaped casing.

8 15. A hose system as defined in claim 14, wherein the second locking element
9 includes a post traversing the U-shaped casing for interlocking with the first locking
10 element.

11 16. A hose system as defined in claim 15, wherein the first locking element
12 includes a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post.

13 17. A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the first locking element
14 includes a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

15 18. A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the first locking element
16 includes a generally U-shaped casing.

17 19. A hose system as defined in claim 18, wherein the first locking element
18 includes a post traversing the U-shaped casing for interlocking with the second locking
19 element.

1 20. A hose system as defined in claim 19, wherein the second locking element
2 includes a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post.

3 21. A hose system for a vacuum appliance having a hose receptacle, the hose
4 system comprising:

5 a hose having a connection end;
6 a first locking element connected to the connection end of the hose;
7 an adapter having a second locking element adapted to selectively engage the first
8 locking element; and
9 means for fixedly attaching the adapter to the hose receptacle.